

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05783 231107Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 (ISO) W

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P 231000Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5673

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 5783

PASS TREASURY FOR OSAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJECT: FINANCE MINISTRY INFORMATION CENTER

REF: STATE 205517

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH USREP SINCE
INCEPTION OF PROPOSAL FOR MINFIN INFO CENTER AND CONCURS
IN PROJECT. CENTER SHOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO
JOINT COMMISSION IN HIGHLIGHTING ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS
PROVIDING SOURCE OF BASIC DATA ON SAUDI ECONOMY, SOME-
THING BADLY NEEDED.

2. RE LINE PARA 2 QUOTE ... BE A SOURCE OF INFORMATION
DISSEMINATION TO PRIVATE SECTOR END QUOTE, ONE SINGULAR
INFO GAP CONCERNS ALL PROJECTS CONTRACTED FOR BY SAG.
SUCH INFO WOULD BE OF GREAT UTILITY TO EMBASSY, FOR
EXAMPLE, IN SERVICING U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY. NO
OVERALL PROJECT LIST (WHICH NOW BELIEVED TO NUMBER IN
EXCESS 140) EXISTS. INFO GENERALLY REQUIRED IS NAME OF
PROJECT, CONTACT DATE, COST, IDENTITY OF SAUDI AND/OR
FOREIGN FIRM WINNING BID, AND COMPLETION DATE.

3. TRADE DATA (EXPORTS AND IMPORTS) NOW RUNNING TWO
YEARS IN ARREARS (UNDERSTAND FROM USREP THAT CENSUS
TEAM WILL HAVE FOREIGN TRADE DATA UP TO DATE THROUGH
1975 BY OCTOBER 18).

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4. EMBASSY WOULD HOPE THAT BASIC DATA BANK WOULD BE
ESTABLISHED AND WOULD EXPECT BUCEN (OR OTHER TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO JOINT COMMISSION) TO PROVIDE KNOW-HOW.
QUITE AS IMPORTANT AS DATA COLLECTION AND STORAGE IS PROMPT
PUBLICATION. DEARTH OF PUBLISHED DATA (AND LIMITED COPIES
WHEN DATA OF WHATEVER NATURE ARE PUBLISHED) MAKES WORKING
THE SAUDI SANDS INDEED A DISMAL SCIENCE.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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